



Tuesday, January 27, 2026

**2025-2026 Senate Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentorship**

The Senate Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentorship is intended to encourage and recognize individual excellence in faculty mentorship. Any Senate faculty member is eligible to receive this award. A list of previous recipients is provided on page 2 and available at [https://senate.ucmerced.edu/previous\\_senate\\_awardees](https://senate.ucmerced.edu/previous_senate_awardees).

**Eligibility**

All Senate faculty members who have not previously received this award are eligible, including those nominated in prior years but not selected.

**Criteria for Award**

The qualities that distinguish excellent faculty mentorship are highly variable across disciplines. In general, excellent faculty mentorship can be defined by the following traits:

- Successful mentoring of individual faculty and Unit 18 lecturers as shown by the mentees' record of success.
- Creating a positive environment where faculty can flourish.

**Nomination Process**

Nominations for the Senate Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentorship will be accepted from Senate faculty members and Unit 18 lecturers. Nominations will also be accepted from faculty with administrative appointments, including Deans. The nomination should discuss how the faculty nominee meets the criteria listed above.

**Nominations should be submitted electronically as one PDF packet to the Chair of the Academic Senate ([senatechair@ucmerced.edu](mailto:senatechair@ucmerced.edu)) with a copy to the Senate Office ([senateoffice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:senateoffice@ucmerced.edu)), and must include the following:**

1. A **nomination form**.
2. **One nomination letter** (maximum of two pages) highlighting the outstanding contributions of the nominee to UC Merced in faculty mentorship. This letter should be written by a UC Merced faculty member who is familiar with the nominee's accomplishments in these areas. Faculty with administrative appointments (e.g. Deans) may serve as nominators.
3. **Two supporting letters** (suggested length one to two pages) specifically solicited for this nomination.
  - a. One letter is written by a Senate faculty member.
  - b. One letter is written by an individual who is familiar with the nominee's accomplishments.
4. **Nominee's current and complete curriculum vitae.**

## Selection Process

The Senate [Committee on Faculty Welfare](#) (CFW) will form an ad-hoc committee from its membership to serve as the CFW Awards Committee with a minimum of three Senate faculty. The CFW Awards Committee will have balanced representation from different academic areas. If additional expertise is needed, non-CFW committee members will be appointed by the CFW Chair. The CFW Awards Committee reserves the right to not give an award if there is an insufficient number of nominees, or if nominees do not meet the above criteria for the award.

Based on the nomination materials, the CFW Awards Committee will select a slate of finalists from the pool of nominees. Supporting materials for the finalists may be solicited. All materials and notes will be held in confidence by the CFW Awards Committee.

The CFW Awards Committee will review the nominations, and members will submit their first-choice candidate or their recommendation that no award is merited, to the Chair of the CFW Awards Committee, with a brief justification for either case. The CFW Awards Committee will review nominees and select a recipient based on majority vote. The CFW Awards Committee will complete its selection process and inform the Chair of the Academic Senate ([senatechair@ucmerced.edu](mailto:senatechair@ucmerced.edu)) and the Senate Office ([senateoffice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:senateoffice@ucmerced.edu)) of the results. On the recommendation of the CFW Awards Committee, any finalist may be nominated for the award the following year.

**Deadline for Nominations: 5:00pm, Monday, March 30, 2026.**

The announcement of the recipient will be made during the UC Merced Spring [Meeting of the Division](#).

## Past Recipients

- 2024-2025 Sarah Depaoli
- 2023-2024 Ajay Gopinathan
- 2022-2023 No nominations received by the Senate
- 2021-2022 Josh Viers
- 2020-2021 Ashlie Martini
- 2019-2020 Arnold Kim
- 2018-2019 Tanya Golash-Boza
- 2017-2018 Marcos García-Ojeda
- 2016-2017 Miguel Carreira-Perpiñán
- 2015-2016 Teenie Matlock
- 2014-2015 Jennifer Manilay